THE PETITION

Of both Houſes of Parliament.

Preſented to His Majeſtie at York, the 23. of May 1642.

Concerning the disbanding of His Guard.

With the three Votes of both Houſes of the 20.

And His Majeſties Anſwer thereunto.

YORK:
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie: And by the Aſſignes of JOHN BILL.
1642.

TO THE KINGS *MOST EXCELLENT* MAJESTIE.

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

YOur Majesties loyall Subjects, the Lords and Commons in this Parliament, do humbly represent unto your Majestie, That notwithstanding Your frequent Professions to Your Parliament, and the Kingdom, and the late expression in Your Answer of the thirteenth of *May*, to the Petition of the County of *York*, That Your desire and intention is onely the preserving of the true Protestant Profession, the Laws of the Land, the liberty of Your

people, and the peace of the Kingdom. Nevertheleſſe, with great grief, we perceive by Your Speech of the twelfth of May, and the Paper printed in Your Majeſties Name, in the form of a Proclamation, bearing date the fourteenth of May, and other Evidences, That under colour of raiſing a Guard to ſecure Your Perſon, of which Guard (conſidering the fidelity & care of your Parliament) there can be no uſe: Your Majeſtie doth cõmand Troops, both of Horſe and Foot to aſſemble at *York*, the very beginnings whereof were apprehended by the Inhabitants of this County to be an affrightment, and diſturbance of your Majeſties liege people, as appears by their Petition preſented to your Majeſtie: The continuing and increaſe of which Forces is to your Parliament, and muſt needs be a juſt cauſe of great jealouſie and danger to your whole Kingdom.

Therefore we do humbly beſeech your Majeſtie, to diſband all ſuch Forces, as by Your Command are aſſembled; And relying

lying for your ſecurity, (as your Predeceſſors have done) upon the Laws, and the affections of your People, you will be pleaſed to deſiſt from any further deſignes of this nature; contenting your Self with your uſuall and ordinary Guards: Otherwiſe we ſhall hold our ſelves bound in dutie towards God, and the truſt repoſed in us by the People, and the fundamentall Laws and Conſtitutions of this Kingdom, To imploy our care, and utmoſt Power to ſecure the Parliament, and to preſerve the peace and quiet of this Kingdom.

Die Veneris 30 Maii 1642.

Resolved upon the Question.

I. *That it appears, that the King (seduced by wicked Counsels) intends to make war against the Parliament, who (in all their consultations and actions) have proposed no other end unto themselves but the care of His Kingdoms, and the performance of all duty and loyalty to His Person.*

Resolved, &c.

II. *That whensoever the King maketh*

keth war upon the Parliament, it is a breach of the truſt repoſed in him by His People, contrary to His Oath, and tending to the diſſolution of this Government.

Reſolved, &c.

That whoſoever ſhall ſerve or aſſiſt Him in ſuch wars, are Traitors, by the fundamentall Laws of this Kingdom; and have been ſo adjudged by two Acts of Parliament, and ought to ſuffer as Traitors. III. 11. R. 2. 1. H. 4.

Jo. Brown Cler. Parl.


DIEV · ET · MON · DROIT

HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER

To the aforesaid Petition, concerning the disbanding of His Guard.

Presented to His Majestie at YORK, the 23. of May 1642.

WE cannot but extreamly wonder, that the causlesse Jealousies concerning Us, raised and fomented by a malignant Partie in this Kingdom, which desires nothing more then to snatch themselves particular advantages out of a ge-

nerall combustion (which means of advantage shall never be ministred to them by Our fault or seeking) should not onely be able to seduce a weak party in this Our Kingdom, but seem to finde so much countenance even from both Houses, as that Our raising of a Guard (without further designe, then for the safety of Our Person; an Action so Legall in manner, so peaceable, upon causes so evident and necessary) should not onely be looked upon, and petitioned against by them, as a causelesse Jealousie, but declared to be the raising of a War against them, contrary to Our former Professions of Our Care of Religion and Law. And we no lesse wonder, that this Action of Ours should be said (in a very large expression) to be apprehended by the Inhabitants of this Countrey, as an affrightment and disturbance to Our People; having been as well

received

received here, as it is every where to be justified; and (we speak now of the generall, not of a few seduced particulars) assisted and sped by this Countrey, with that loyall Affection and Alacrity, as is a most excellent example set to the rest of the Kingdom, of care of Our safety upon all occasions, and shall never be forgotten by Us, nor we hope, by Our Posterity; but shall be ever payed to them in that which is the proper expression of a Princes Gratitude, A perpetuall vigilant care to govern them justly, and to preserve the onely Rule by which they can be governed, The Law of the Land. And we are confident, That if you were your selves Eye-witnesses, you would see to the contrary, as to give little present thanks, and hereafter little credit to your Informers: And if you have no better intelligence of the Inclinations and Affections

Thomas Wilkinson's Book

of the reſt of the Kingdom, certainly the minds of Our People (which to ſome ends and purpoſes you repreſent) are but ill repreſented unto you.

Have you ſo many moneths together not contented your ſelves to rely for ſecurity (as your Predeceſſours have done) upon the Affection of the People, but by your own ſingle Authority raiſed to your ſelves a Guard, (and that ſometimes of no ordinary numbers, and in no ordinary way) And could not all thoſe Votes and Proteſtations, that Army on one ſide, and that Fleet on the other, perſwade Us to command you to disband your forces, and to content your ſelves with your ordinary (that is, with no) Guard, or Guard Us in an opinion, that you appeared to levie War againſt Us, or had any further deſigne? And is it poſſible that the ſame perſons ſhould be ſo apt to

ſuſpect

ſuſpect and condemn Us, who have been ſo unapt in the ſame matter, (upon much more ground) to take or ſuſpect them: This is Our caſe, notwithſtanding the care and fidelity of Our Parliament, Our Fort is kept by armed men, againſt Us, Our proper Goods, firſt detained from Us, and then, contrary to Our Command, by ſtrong hand, offered to be carried away (in which at once all Our Property, as a private Perſon, all Our Authority as a King, are wreſted from Us:) And yet for Us to ſecure Our ſelves in a Legall Way (that Sir John Hotham may not by the ſame Forces, or by more raiſed, by pretence of the ſame Authority (for they ſay he raiſeth daily ſome, and know it no need thing for him to pretend Orders that he cannot ſhew) continue the war that he hath leavied againſt Us, and as

well imprison Our Person, as detain Our Goods; and as well shut Us up in York, as shut Us out of Hull) is said to be esteemed a cause of great jealousie to the Parliament, a raising War against them; and of danger to the whole Kingdom. While these Injustices and Indignities offered to Us are countenanced by them who ought to be most forward in Our vindication and their punishment, in observation of their Oaths, and of the trust reposed in them by the People, and to avoid the dissolution of the present Government: Upon which Case the whole World is to judge, whether We had not reason, not wholly to rely upon the care and fidelity of Our Parliament (being so strangely blinded by malignant spirits, as not to perceive Our injuries) but to take some care of Our own Person, and in Order to that,

to

to make use of that Authority which the Laws declare to be in Us: And whether this Petition, with such a threatning Conclusion, accompanied with more threatning Votes, gives Us not cause rather to increase then diminish Our Guard; especially since We saw, before the Petition, a printed Paper, dated the 17. of May, under Written Hen. Elsing Cler. D. Com. commanding (in the name of both Lords and Commons) the Sheriffs of all Our Counties, to raise the Power of all those Our Counties, to suppresse such of Our Subjects, as by any of Our Commands shall be drawn together, and put (as that Paper calls it) in a posture of War, charging Our Officers and Subjects to assist them in the performance thereof, at their perils: For though We cannot suspect, that this Paper (or any bare

Votes,

Votes, not grounded upon Law or Reason, or quotation of repealed Statutes) should have any ill influence upon Our good People, who know their duties too well, not to know, That to take up Arms against those, who upon a legall Command (that is, Ours) come together to a most legall end (that is, Our Security and Preservation) were to levy War against Us, and who appear in this County (and we are confident they are so throughout the Kingdom) no lesse satisfied with the Legality, Convenience, and Necessity of these Our Guards, and no lesse sensible of the indignities and dangers (which makes it necessary) then We are Our selves: Yet if that Paper bee really the Act of both Houses, We cannot look upon it, but as the highest of Scorns and indignities, first, to illude commands

of

of Force against Us, and after those have appeared useless, to offer by Petition, to perswade Us to that which that Force should have effected.

We conclude this Answer to your Petition, with Our Counsels to you; That you joyn with Us in exacting satisfaction for that unparalleld, and yet unpunished Action of Sir John Hotham; And that you command Our Fort and Goods to be returned to Our own hands: That you lay down all pretences (under pretence of necessity, or denying what is Law) to make Us Kings without Subjects, and (by consequence) but a Cypher of Us; That you declare effectually against Tumults, and all such Pamphlets, (punishing the Authors and Publishers of them) as seditiously endeavour to disable Us from protecting Our People by weakning (by

false Aspersions, and new false Doctrines, (Our Authority, Duty, Event, and their Influence, &c. The particulars of which Votes and Pamphlets we would long since have taken care, that Our learned Council should have been ready to give in Evidence, if upon Our former offer, We had received any return of Encouragement from you to it. And if you do this, you shew (and hereby till then you prove) to the World, That you have vindicated your duty to God, the trust reposed in you by the People, and the fundamental Laws and Constitutions of the Kingdom, and employed your care and utmost power to secure the Parliament, (for We are still a part of the Parliament, and shall be till this be found destructive) from any thing that may tend to the Subversion of the Government, and to preserve the peace and quiet of the Kingdom, which, together with

with the defence of the Protestant profession, the Laws of the Land, and Our own just Prerogative (as a part of, and a defence to those Laws) have been the main end, which, in Our Consultations and Actions, We proposed to Our Self.

FINIS.
